

PART V

Urban Operations

The platoon may take part in large-scale urban operations as part of a larger force. Built-up areas consist mainly of buildings, streets, and subterranean systems. The tank platoon's observation and direct-fire planning must address the ground-level fight (in the street and on ground-level floors of buildings), the aboveground fight, and the subterranean fight.

Infantry elements can help the tank platoon in locating targets for the tanks. They also destroy antitank weapons, assault enemy positions, and clear buildings. Refer to guidelines for transporting infantry on tanks later in Part V.

OFFENSIVE URBAN OPERATIONS

Offensive operations in a built-up area are planned and executed using METT-TC factors and generally take the form of hasty or deliberate attack, requiring the platoon to conduct planning, reconnaissance, and coordination as thoroughly as the available time and situation permit. Additionally the tank platoon can conduct the following urban offensive operations:

- Destroy enemy strongpoints with main gun fires.
- Neutralize enemy positions with machine gun fire.
- Destroy obstacles across streets.
- Provide supporting fires as directed by infantry.
- Establish road blocks and barricades.

PRECOMBAT CHECKLIST

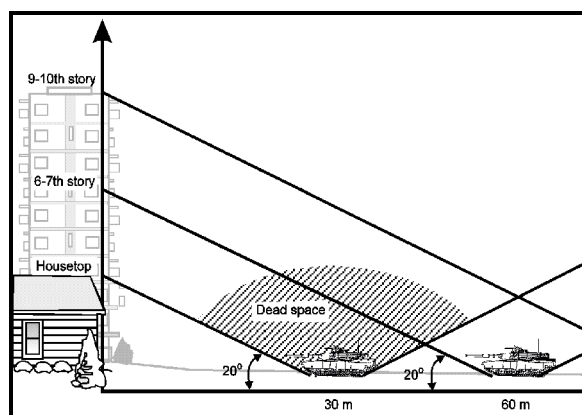
The following chart lists steps the platoon takes in preparing for offensive urban operations.

STEP	ACTION – Precombat checklist
1	Loader ensures that the TA-1 is mounted on the right side of the bustle rack and is functioning.
2	Loader/gunner store an additional 2,200 rounds of 7.62-mm ammunition in the caliber .50 storage box in the turret. Strap the caliber .50 ammunition under the TC's seat on platform.
3	Ensure that the load plan is correct so vision blocks are not obstructed when hatches are buttoned up.
4	Loader emplaces sand bags around antenna matching units.
5	Driver attaches heat shield to exhaust duct to protect dismounted infantry from hot exhaust.
6	Loader/gunner move all HEAT, MPAT, and canister (if available) ammunition to ready rack.
7	If time permits, change main gun UBL to 20 rounds HEAT or MPAT, 12 rounds canister, and 10 rounds SABOT (M1A2).
8	When infantry is available, rehearse mounting and dismounting from tank.

OFFENSIVE SCANNING AND MOVEMENT

The following chart lists basic steps the platoon takes in scanning the urban area of operations in the offense. Refer to the illustration on the following page.

STEP	ACTION – Offensive scanning and movement
1	Move down streets by section. (NOTE: Tank platoons will not fight lower than section level.)
2	Lead tank scans from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock and up to the 3rd floor of buildings.
3	Trail tank is staggered to the right and scans from 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock and from the 6th to 10th floor of buildings.
4	As the section advances, it hands off buildings by number or phase line to follow-on elements and continues to scan buildings 100 meters to the front. NOTE: Moving by platoon entails the same procedures, with the platoon in staggered column formation and alternating gun tubes. The trail tank scans to the rear.
5	When crossing intersections, dismounted infantry will clear the intersection for antiarmor ambushes. When dismounted infantry is not available, the loaders from Tanks 1 and 2 will clear the intersection, using procedures similar to clearing intervisibility lines in open terrain.



Scanning and dead space above street level.

ATTACK

Attacks in the urban environment are characterized by precise planning based on detailed intelligence information, reconnaissance, preparations, and rehearsals. The following chart lists steps and considerations for an attack.

STEP	ACTION/CONSIDERATION – Urban attack
1	Urban attack techniques are similar to those for assaulting a strongpoint.
2	The tank platoon may be tasked to perform the role of support, assault, or reserve force.
3	An urban attack consists of these phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconnoiter the objective. Generate intelligence and communicate with friendly forces to gain information about the objective. • Move to the objective. • Isolate the objective. Infantry seizes and holds dominating terrain; tanks provide ABF/SBF and cover high-speed avenues of approach. • Secure a foothold. This is normally one or two city blocks, with tanks providing SBF to infantry. • Clear the objective. Eliminate enemy resistance. Infantry clears rooms/buildings and marks them with engineer tape (chem lights at night). • Consolidate/reorganize. Prepare for future missions.
4	On order, tanks may conduct these urban offensive operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutralize enemy positions with machine gun fires. • Destroy enemy strongpoints with main gun fires. • Destroy obstacles blocking streets. • Assist infantry with forced entry of buildings. • Employ supporting fires on request of infantry. • Establish roadblocks and barricades.

DEFENSIVE URBAN OPERATIONS

Like offensive urban operations, defensive urban operations require thorough planning and precise execution based on METT-TC and established doctrine. The tank platoon may be tasked to defend against an enemy approaching from outside the urban area or against enemy forces already in the urban area.

GENERAL DEFENSIVE CONSIDERATIONS

The following chart lists considerations and procedures for the platoon in planning defensive urban operations.

STEP	ACTION/CONSIDERATION – Defensive urban operations
1	Use procedures and considerations similar to those for open terrain defensive operations, to include preventing the enemy from isolating the defensive position, conducting reconnaissance of the defensive position, and gaining a foothold in the urban area.
2	Designate EAs that can be covered by direct/indirect fires.
3	Position vehicles where they can cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely avenues of approach from city edges. • Flanks of towns/villages. • Barricades and obstacles.
4	The platoon operates as a whole or by section. DO NOT deploy individual tanks.
5	When employed, infantry squads should be abreast of the tank platoon so they can shift fires toward the expected direction of attack.
6	When employed as a reserve force, on order, be prepared to conduct a counterattack, support the infantry, or deploy the platoon in two sections.
7	Use main gun to reduce obstacles or entrenched positions.
8	Provide reconnaissance by fire for the infantry.

ENGAGEMENT AREA DEVELOPMENT

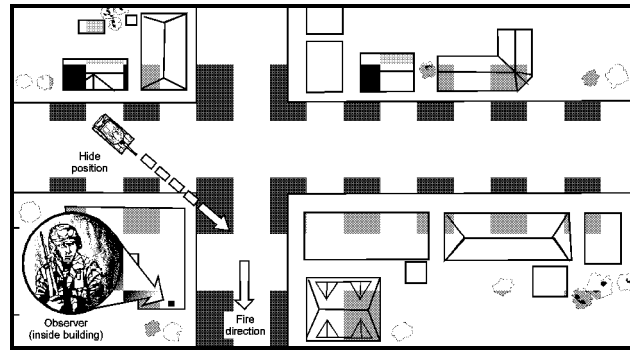
The following chart lists steps the platoon leader takes in building an EA for defensive urban operations.

STEP	ACTION – Engagement area development
1	Follow the steps of building the EA, as outlined on page 73 of this SOP.
2	Mark TRPs using orange VS-17 panels in daylight. In limited visibility, attach three 12-inch strips of thermal tape vertically to each panel.
3	Mark firing positions with orange spray paint on walls or on the street during daytime. Use orange chem lights at night.

OCCUPATION OF AN URBAN BATTLE POSITION

The following chart lists steps the platoon takes in occupying a BP during defensive urban operations. The illustration on page 124 shows a vehicle hide position with a supporting dismounted observer.

STEP	ACTION – Occupy an urban BP
1	Occupy a hide position to the flank or rear of the proposed BP. All loaders dismount with TCs and search for OP locations. (Loaders remain in OP positions if dismounted infantry is unavailable to locate targets for the tanks.)
2	Platoon leader and TCs reconnoiter the EA. (NOTE: The platoon may have up to four separate EAs, depending on the nature of the urban terrain.)
3	Designate TRPs and sectors of fire.
4	Coordinate with adjacent platoons and companies.
5	After completing reconnaissance, platoon leader and TCs return to vehicles, conduct a short count, and occupy hide positions behind primary firing positions.
6	On order, platoon moves simultaneously into turret-down positions (if available). Platoon leader makes visual check of the area to determine if enemy situation has changed.
7	On order, platoon moves simultaneously into hull-down positions (if available).
8	Each TC completes written or digital sketch card and forwards it to the platoon leader within 15 minutes.
9	Upon the completion of the sketch cards, vehicles move back to hide positions individually.
10	Once all tanks are in a hide position, they shut down simultaneously. Platoon leader reports “ESTABLISHED” to the commander via FM or FBCB2.
11	Platoon leader finishes platoon fire plan and forwards it to the commander within 30 minutes.
12	Establish wire communications with OPs (when no other means of communications is available).
13	Improve camouflage.
14	Conduct resupply operations. (All resupply operations will use the service station technique, with movement by section to the resupply point.)



Urban vehicle hide position with supporting observer.

EXECUTING THE DEFENSE

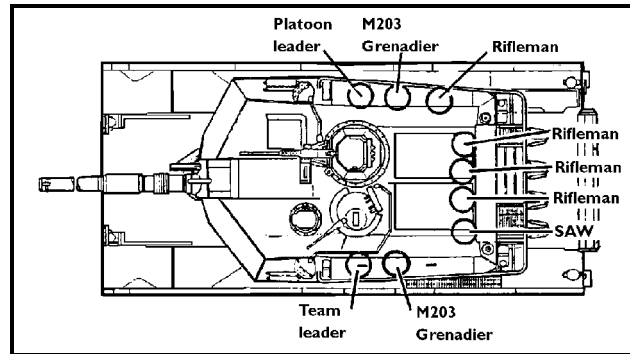
The following chart lists steps the platoon takes in executing the defensive urban operation after occupying a BP and fighting positions.

STEP	ACTION/CONSIDERATION – Execute urban defense
1	Establish communications (digital or FM) with the infantry platoon leader.
2	Seek hull-down positions during the street-level fight to provide cover and direct fire.
3	Use buildings to hide vehicles before moving into position to engage enemy forces. (NOTE: Crews must ensure that the floor of the building will support the tank.)
4	Emplace an OP (from tank crew or dismounted unit) to observe as enemy forces enter the EA/range.
5	OP signals tanks to move and fire as necessary to engage the enemy.
6	After engaging the enemy, tanks move to alternate positions to avoid detection.

TRANSPORTING INFANTRY ON TANKS

The following chart lists guidelines and procedures when the platoon must carry infantrymen on its tanks. The illustration on the following page shows positions for the infantry on a tank.

STEP	ACTION/CONSIDERATION – Transporting infantry on tanks
1	Riders should wear hearing protection.
2	Infantry will carry only battle gear.
3	No one rides forward of the grenade launchers.
4	Infantry leaders ride near the TC's hatch so they can talk to and signal the TC. The senior infantry leader rides on the right of the tank platoon leader's hatch. Squad/team leaders ride next to their TC's hatch.
5	Each TC controls mounting and dismounting of infantry on his tank. Alert the TC before mounting or dismounting and follow his commands and signals.
6	Mount only from the rear sprockets.
7	Dismount off either the left rear sprocket or the left front of the turret. DO NOT dismount near the coax or caliber .50 machine gun.
8	The lead vehicle will not carry infantry.
9	Riders scan for enemy targets in all directions. The infantry leader designates squad scanning sectors.
10	Riding infantrymen must watch for hanging objects and tree branches.
11	Infantry must follow these guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEVER move in front of vehicle unless told to do so. • NEVER dismount the vehicle without permission. • NEVER dangle arms, legs, or equipment off the side. • NEVER carry too many soldiers on one vehicle. • NEVER fall asleep or smoke while riding.



Sample positions for infantry riding on a tank.